

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended): A laminated optical device comprising:  
  
a polarizing layer having a thickness of ~~not larger~~ less than 5  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and  
  
at least one birefringent layer laminated on said polarizing layer and including either a solid film of oriented liquid crystal or a polymer layer containing oriented liquid crystal.
2. (Original): A laminated optical device according to claim 1, wherein said polarizing layer is made of one member selected from the group consisting of a lyotropic liquid-crystal dichromatic dye, a dichromatic dye-containing liquid-crystal polymer and a dichromatic dye-containing lyotropic substance.
3. (Original): A laminated optical device according to claim 1, wherein said birefringent layer contains one member selected from the group consisting of discotic or nematic liquid crystal oriented planarly horizontally or thicknesswise obliquely, cholesteric liquid crystal oriented in a Grandjean texture, and liquid crystal nematically oriented at an angle of twist of from 0 to 360 degrees.
4. (Original): A laminated optical device according to claim 1, wherein said polarizing layer and said birefringent layer are superposed closely on each other through an oriented film.
5. (Previously presented) A laminated optical device according to claim 1, further comprising a luminance-enhancement film laminated.

6. (Currently amended): A laminated optical device according to claim 1, said laminated optical device having two opposite surfaces, further comprising at least one adhesive layer disposed on one or each of the opposite surfaces.

7. (Original): A liquid-crystal display apparatus comprising:

a liquid-crystal display panel; and

at least one laminated optical device defined in claim 1 and disposed on one of opposite surfaces of said liquid-crystal display panel.

8. (Previously presented): A laminated optical device according to claim 1, wherein said birefringent layer contains a discotic or nematic liquid crystal oriented planarly horizontally or thicknesswise obliquely.

9. (Previously presented): A laminated optical device according to claim 1, wherein said birefringent layer contains a cholesteric liquid crystal oriented in a Grandjean texture.

10. (Previously presented): A laminated optical device according to claim 1, wherein said birefringent layer contains a liquid crystal nematically oriented at an angle of twist of from 0 to 360 degrees.

11. (New): A laminated optical device according to claim 1, wherein said polarizing layer has a thickness of from 0.1 to 4  $\mu\text{m}$ .

12. (New): A laminated optical device according to claim 1, wherein said polarizing layer has a thickness of from 0.2 to 3  $\mu\text{m}$ .

13. (New): A laminated optical device comprising:

a polarizing layer having a thickness of not larger than 5  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and

at least one birefringent layer laminated on said polarizing layer and including either a solid film of oriented liquid crystal or a polymer layer containing oriented liquid crystal,

wherein said polarizing layer is made of one member selected from the group consisting of a lyotropic liquid-crystal dichromatic dye, a dichromatic dye-containing liquid-crystal polymer and a dichromatic dye-containing lyotropic substance.

14. (New): A laminated optical device comprising:

a polarizing layer having a thickness of not larger than 5  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and

at least one birefringent layer laminated on said polarizing layer and including either a solid film of oriented liquid crystal or a polymer layer containing oriented liquid crystal,

wherein said polarizing layer and said birefringent layer are superposed closely on each other through an oriented film.

15. (New): A laminated optical device comprising:

a polarizing layer having a thickness of not larger than 5  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and

at least one birefringent layer laminated on said polarizing layer and including either a solid film of oriented liquid crystal or a polymer layer containing oriented liquid crystal,

further comprising a luminance-enhancement film laminated.

16. (New): A laminated optical device comprising:

a polarizing layer having a thickness of not larger than 5  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and

at least one birefringent layer laminated on said polarizing layer and including either a solid film of oriented liquid crystal or a polymer layer containing oriented liquid crystal,

said laminated optical device having two opposite surfaces, further comprising at least one adhesive layer disposed on one or each of the opposite surfaces.

17. (New): A laminated optical device comprising:

a polarizing layer having a thickness of not larger than 5  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and

at least one birefringent layer laminated on said polarizing layer and including either a solid film of oriented liquid crystal or a polymer layer containing oriented liquid crystal,

wherein said birefringent layer contains a discotic or nematic liquid crystal oriented planarly horizontally or thicknesswise obliquely.

18. (New): A laminated optical device comprising:

a polarizing layer having a thickness of not larger than 5  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and

at least one birefringent layer laminated on said polarizing layer and including either a solid film of oriented liquid crystal or a polymer layer containing oriented liquid crystal,

wherein said birefringent layer contains a liquid crystal nematically oriented at an angle of twist of from 0 to 360 degrees.

19. (New): A liquid-crystal display apparatus comprising:

a liquid-crystal display panel; and

at least one laminated optical device defined in claim 13 and disposed on one of opposite surfaces of said liquid-crystal display panel.

20. (New): A liquid-crystal display apparatus comprising:

a liquid-crystal display panel; and

at least one laminated optical device defined in claim 14 and disposed on one of opposite surfaces of said liquid-crystal display panel.

21. (New): A liquid-crystal display apparatus comprising:

a liquid-crystal display panel; and

at least one laminated optical device defined in claim 15 and disposed on one of opposite surfaces of said liquid-crystal display panel.

22. (New): A liquid-crystal display apparatus comprising:

a liquid-crystal display panel; and

at least one laminated optical device defined in claim 16 and disposed on one of opposite surfaces of said liquid-crystal display panel.

23. (New): A liquid-crystal display apparatus comprising:

a liquid-crystal display panel; and

at least one laminated optical device defined in claim 17 and disposed on one of opposite surfaces of said liquid-crystal display panel.

24. (New): A liquid-crystal display apparatus comprising:

a liquid-crystal display panel; and

at least one laminated optical device defined in claim 18 and disposed on one of opposite surfaces of said liquid-crystal display panel.

25. (New): A laminated optical device comprising:

a polarizing layer having a thickness of not larger than 5  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and

at least one birefringent layer laminated on said polarizing layer and including either a solid film of oriented liquid crystal or a polymer layer containing oriented liquid crystal,

wherein said birefringent layer is coated directly on said polarizing layer.

26. (New): A liquid-crystal display apparatus comprising:

a liquid-crystal display panel; and

at least one laminated optical device defined in claim 25 and disposed on one of opposite surfaces of said liquid-crystal display panel.